

Zone 2 Portesbery Special School – sibling drumming event



Organisation

Portesbery Special School

Target Group(s)

Primary age pupils and their siblings (in mainstream)

Context

Portesbery School has worked hard provide regular opportunities for the siblings of Portesbery pupils to visit and engage in learning alongside their brother or sister. For primary age pupils this happens during the school day and has the dual benefit of helping the sibling understand the special needs of their brother or sister, and the way Portesbery school works to support them plus, also makes them feel special and included; very important for this group of children who may easily become marginalised because of the severe needs of their sibling.

The aim of this event was to provide a fun, inclusive opportunity for pupils and siblings to work together to learn a new skill. Other aims:

1) Nurturing and supporting siblings, making them feel special and valued. 2) Increased ability to use applied thinking skills and coordination. 3) Increased ability to work effectively as part of a team. 4) Raised self esteem of both pupils and their siblings through participation in informal learning setting. 5) Improved social interaction in a learning environment. 6) All able to participate fully in the activity regardless of previous skill level.

Action planned

The ½ hour sessions were planned in such a way that the siblings (all in mainstream schools, many in Surrey Heath) had a session specifically for them before they joined the other pupils. This was a great way to give them some 'me' time and also meant they had a good understanding of the skills required so that they could assist their sibling when they got together in collaborative groups. The afternoon was rounded off with a celebration of the activity and a performance for the whole school and parents.

The tutor was very flexible and worked to the requirements of the school. The tutor provided all equipment.

Outcomes and Impact

This was a positive experience for all. Photographic evidence and questionnaire responses from the siblings who attend the event support this, as well as parental feedback.

Portesbery pupils enjoyed the sensory experience of the drumming, and the new experiences that it offered.

The siblings also benefited as there was some focused time just for them, and a chance to perform in front of Portesbery pupils and their parents. During the collaborative workshops, the siblings were able to support our pupils.



Next Steps

Further Sibling's events (termly) with a activity different focus and possibly an event for secondary age pupils and their siblings.

See w: www.inspire-works.co.uk for further information on Brazilian Samba and other drumming workshops.

To bridge together the unique qualities of each educational setting within the confederation to the greater benefit of the wider community and the individuals within it